

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CENTRALIZING A CERTIFICATE REVOCATION
LIST IN A CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY CLUSTER

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A method and apparatus for centralizing a certificate
revocation list (CRL). Specifically, the present invention
describes a method and system for centralizing a CRL in a
certificate authority. The certificate authority is comprised
of a master server coupled to a plurality of clone servers that
10 form a cluster of servers. Each of the clone servers in the
cluster has the capability to provide certificate authority
services. The present invention centralizes the CRL at a
database accessed by the lightweight directory access protocol
that supports a Secure Sockets Layer. A CRL merger service
15 located at the master server maintains the CRL. The master
server also receives revocation information coming from the
clone servers indicating a certificate has been revoked. Upon
receipt of such revocation certificate record, the
corresponding certificate is added to the CRL. In this way a
20 centralized CRL is maintained for the entire certificate
authority cluster of servers.